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Title: Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Kerala for the Puttingal Temple disaster.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The pyro technical tragedy at Puttingal Temple Paravur, Kollam requires the financial assistance from the Government. The State of Kerala already submitted request for financial assistance from the Government to meet the requirement of an amount of Rs. 117,34,66,000 the actual loss due to disaster. No special financial assistance has been released from the Government for management of Puttingal disaster. The contention of the Government is that the central share of SDRF released to State of Kerala is not sufficient for management of a disaster in which 109 lives were lost and building and properties worth crores of rupees were damaged. A detailed report with memorandum for treating Puttingal tragedy as a special category and request for assistance for Central Government was submitted by State of Kerala. Hundreds of injured persons admitted in hospitals due to this disaster are not in a position to continue their treatment due the lack of fund with State Government. It is the duty of both Central and State Government to protect the interest of victims in the disaster. The request from hundreds of people who lost their livelihoods due the disaster is yet to be taken up. The damage to the buildings and other social issues have not been addressed due to lack of fund with the State Disaster Management Authority. Considering the special nature of disaster, special financial assistance from the Central is required.

Hence I urge upon the Government to sanction sufficient financial assistance to State of Kerala as per the memorandum submitted with regard to Puttingal disaster.